Expenditure on child development

1325. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the total amount spent on child development through various NGOs in the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Incentives for girl child

1326. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that girl child is still not the automatic choice of parents in the country;

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken to adopt stick and carrot policy towards parents to ensure well being of girl child; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to prevent female foeticide and girl child discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in order to check female foeticide, implements the Prenatal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (amended in 2003). The Act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus. Under the Act, use of Pre-natal diagnostic Techniques and genetic counseling is permissible for detection of genetic abnormalities. The violation of the Act is punishable with imprisonment upto 5 years and fine upto Rs. 1.00 lakh apart from cancallation of registration and license. Steps are also taken for creation of awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex through radio, television and print media units; constitution of a National Monitoring and Inspection Committee which has representatives from National Commission for Women and Ministry of Women and Child Development takes stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem States; setting up of a National Surveillance Cell for effective implementation